

Base Improvements; A new Look for Kandahar

Story and photo by Spc.C. Elijah Spencer
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kandahar, Afghanistan -- After three years, four rotations, and who knows how many thousands of troops later, Kandahar Air Field (KAF) in Afghanistan is getting a well-deserved facelift along with needed modifications. This has come as a result of the United States Military recognizing that it will take longer than expected to accomplish everything necessary to rebuild this nation. With this



The Mini Mall, currently under construction, will contain all of the above in mind, changes are being made to significantly improve the lifestyle of servicemembers in KAF.

"We're going to be here for a while", said Lt Col Steven Mahoney, Airfield Support Task Force Commander (ASTF). "The main thing is that the sol-

diers here get the things that are important and essential for a good quality of life away from home."

One noticeable change here at KAF is the new location for the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) tent. It

See Improve pg. 10

Honoring Our Fallen Soldiers

Story by Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Mortuary Affairs gives the highest honor to our Fallen Soldiers

Kandahar, Afghanistan-The stirring sound of Taps echoes in the background as soldiers stand at attention, and render honor to their fallen brethren. Six of his closest team members grasp the flag draped casket and reverently march towards the wide opening of the waiting cargo plane.

The harsh reality of death is something all soldiers must face. The chances are multiplied significantly during wartime. The Armed Forces of the United States, in keeping with a sacred

and time honored creed, never leaves anyone behind. For those killed in action, the highest respect and honor is rendered in the handling of their remains.

Mortuary Affairs is tasked with this responsibility. They provide care and mortuary service for soldiers in the event of fatality or mass casualty during wartime. An unenviable task it may seem to some, however, for the troops performing this service, their devotion to duty is beyond reproach. The three man team that

See Honor pg. 9

From the Top

Former Taliban Foreign Minister Released

By NOOR KHAN

Associated Press Writer

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban's former foreign minister has been released from U.S. military custody and is living at his home in this southern Afghan city, the spokesman for the governor of Kandahar province said Saturday.

Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil was released 10 days ago and is in the former Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, said Khalid Pashtun, spokesman for Gov. Mohammed Yusuf Pashtun.

Muttawakil's precise whereabouts weren't known and the circumstances of his release weren't clear.

Recent unconfirmed reports of Muttawakil's release fueled speculation that the U.S.-backed central government was pursuing talks with moderate members of the former Taliban movement, hoping for further reconciliation in the country where attacks by fugitive Taliban and al-Qaida members continue to plague the countryside.

"We have invited other Taliban also who have been released from custody to come together and join hands, and participate in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country," Pashtun told The Associated Press.

The spokesman said Muttawakil would be able to

participate in next year's nationwide elections, the first since the Taliban were forced from power by a U.S.-led coalition in late 2001.

Earlier this week, President Hamid Karzai's spokesman Jawid Luddin said the government received an offer of assistance from Muttawakil if it aided in his release. Luddin said Thursday that the government was considering whether to speak with him but hadn't responded to the offer - and would do so only if it was determined that Muttawakil wasn't directly involved in terrorist acts or crimes against the Afghan people.

Muttawakil is believed to be a moderate member of the hard-line Taliban movement and had previously been held by the U.S. military at its main base in Bagram, north of Kabul.

Also Saturday, the governor of southeastern Ghazni province said 21 suspected Taliban were arrested during a 10-day operation. Afghan forces working alone also confiscated 38 assault rifles, 18 heavy machine guns and thousands of bullets, said Haji Asadullah.



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If We Fix It, They Will Fly

Story by Spc. Timothy S. Melzow,

Photos by Spc. C. Elijah Spencer

211th Mobile Public

Affairs Detachment

Kandahar Air Field, known as the concrete monster, sprawls out towards the concertina fence that keeps out uninvited guests. Pilots and crew chiefs scramble across the asphalt toward their AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopters in a hurry to get the birds off the ground. This symphony of organized chaos is known as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF). The QRF is called up when the Apaches are needed to give close air support, eliminating the immediate threat of anyone who poses a danger to US troops in southern Afghanistan. But, the magic doesn't only happen in the air, it happens on the ground. Specifically in the hangers, at the hands of skilled mechanics, twisting and torquing the mechanical workings of these advanced war machines.

Charlie Company 1st –130th Aviation Attack Helicopter Battalion is a National Guard unit from Raleigh, NC. Since arriving in Afghanistan, the Apaches have the Taliban and Al Qaeda running for their lives to get out of the cross hairs of their 30-millimeter cannons. The maintenance crews work long hours in order to make sure this happens, keeping these intimidating birds of prey prowling over the skies of Afghanistan.

Apaches on average require 3.5 hours of maintenance for every hour of flight. Maintenance on these helicopters are both scheduled and sometimes unscheduled. This type of rigorous upkeep has several phases, and each particular phase is determined by how many hours the bird has flown. After every 10 flight hours, a 10-hour preventative maintenance service inspection is required. Another phase maintenance is required when the bird reaches 250 flight hours. Here, the aircraft is stripped down and everything is thoroughly inspected for deficiencies. During the 250 hour phase maintenance, parts are replaced and repaired as needed.

Because maintenance on these helicopters is determined by flight hours, a flow chart is used to gauge and structure when and how long an aircraft flies. A pilot doesn't simply decide he or she wants a specific aircraft and gets the keys and go flying. The flow chart is managed by the maintenance pilot and is used so that multiple aircraft does not go into heavy maintenance at the same time. This ensures that the combat readiness of the unit remains at an optimal level.

The maintenance crews work long hours doing their job. Staff Sgt. Clemont Dedeaux from Fayetteville, NC, says he is impressed with how the crew has handled the transition from civilian life to active duty. Before leaving North Carolina for the deployment, the unit only trained one to two weekends a month.



Spc. Kevin E. Boysel, works on the tail portion of an AH-64 Apache Helicopter

"The task force is doing a hell of a job," said Staff Sgt. Dedeaux. He also said that he is proud of his platoon and how they handle the pressures of working on the Apaches. Staff Sgt. Dedeaux knows that the pilots depend on him and his crew to do the best work they can to keep these aircraft flying in the skies above the southern region.

The workdays for C Company are 6 to 7 days a week and about 12 hours a day, unless they are needed to work into the late hours of the night to complete some unscheduled maintenance. Spc. Jason Dorman from Raleigh, NC. Says he doesn't mind working late to finish a job.

"If you have to work longer hours, it makes the time go by faster," said Dorman.

Dedeaux tells his younger soldiers that while they are getting hands on experience on the Apache, it is important to read the technical manuals on the bird to gain more knowledge. The platoon knows what it takes to get the job done, and if they don't put forth their best work, people's lives could be lost.

WORLD NEWS



Rockets Hit Baghdad Hotel With U.S. Staff

By ROBERT H. REID
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Six to eight rockets struck the Al Rasheed Hotel early Sunday, where U.S. military and civilian employees stay, the U.S. military said.

A spokesman for the military command said there were an "unknown number of casualties" and a quick reaction force had been dispatched to the scene. U.S. officials declined further comment.

The luxury hotel is located in an area tightly controlled by the U.S. military on the western side of the Tigris River near the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, who began a three-day tour of Iraq on Friday, was in Baghdad, but his whereabouts were unknown.

Some balconies in the midlevel of the hotel appeared damaged and a large hole was visible on one side of the building.

Several Army Humvees and at least one armored personnel carrier were blocking the street leading up to the hotel.

The Al Rasheed, made famous by CNN's telephone calls under fire and rooftop broadcasts during the 1991 Gulf War, was taken over by the American military when Baghdad fell to U.S. forces in April.

The hotel, which was built and owned by the deposed Iraqi government, was Iraq's marquee guesthouse. Inaugurated in 1982 for a summit of nonaligned nations,

its style remains a cross between 1970s American kitsch and Soviet institutionalism.

The attack came a day after guerrillas fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades at a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter after it came down in a field near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, wounding one soldier and causing the craft to explode in flames and spew a column of black smoke.

Also Saturday, U.S. military officials reopened a major bridge over the Tigris River to ease transportation in the capital and ended the nighttime curfew in effect since April.

Coalition officials took the moves in preparation for the holy month of fasting, Ramadan, which begins here Monday. The month is marked by nighttime festivities.

Iraqi authorities said the steps were taken because of an improved security situation in the capital.



Drive Opens In Afghanistan Against Taliban And Qaeda

By Reuters

SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan - More than 1,000 Afghan soldiers and 100 U.S.-led foreign troops backed by tanks and jet aircraft are pursuing Taliban and Al Qaeda militants in a big operation in the south of Afghanistan, Haji Sayed Mohammad, a military commander in Zabul Province, said on Thursday.

He said some Taliban guerrillas had been captured while witnesses said U.S. warplanes had bombed suspected guerrilla

hideouts. U.S. officials have yet to comment on the operation.

Officials in Zabul and neighboring Uruzgan Province said earlier in the week that 19 Taliban guerrillas, including a group mounted on motorcycles, had been detained.

Earlier this month, the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review quoted Western and Afghan intelligence sources as saying the Taliban was planning to bring in 2,500 guerrillas from Pakistan before winter.

It said the rebels had bought more than 1,000 motorcycles over the past three months in Pakistan's Quetta region for this purpose.

The Taliban has already stepped up attacks in southern provinces in recent weeks, and the period since early August has been the bloodiest since the group's overthrow in late 2001, with more than 300 people killed in clashes across the country.

U.S. and Afghan officials say Pakistan must do more to prevent guerrillas crossing its border. Pakistan says it is doing its best to police a rugged and porous frontier and announced on Wednesday that it had started fencing part of the border.

Also on Wednesday, the Western-backed government in Kabul said Taliban members, including former Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, who has been in U.S. custody since 2001, had shown willingness to help President Hamid Karzai.

The government said Karzai had yet to respond and Muttawakil had not been released as had been reported earlier this month.

A statement faxed to newspapers in Pakistan and signed by Hamid Agha, who identified himself as a Taliban spokesman, denied that the guerrillas were in any talks with the government.

"No responsible Taliban has come to an understanding with Karzai," it said.

SPORTS



Florida Marlins pitcher Josh Beckett celebrates an inning-ending double play against the New York Yankees in the eighth inning of Game 6 of the World Series Saturday, Oct. 25, 2003 in New York (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

Marlins Top Yanks to Win World Series

NEW YORK (AP) — The wild-card Florida Marlins wrapped up their wild ride with a most improbable World Series championship, stunning the New York Yankees 2-0 Saturday night behind the strong right arm and sheer determination of their young MVP.

Manager Jack McKeon was second-guessed the moment he said Josh Beckett would start Game 6 on three days' rest. But the 23-year-old fastballer, called "Rook" by his manager, made McKeon look brilliant.

Starting on short rest for the first time in his career, Beckett threw a five-hitter to give the Marlins their second title in seven seasons.

"You'll believe me now that anything can happen," McKeon said. "This guy has the guts of a burglar."

Beckett outdueled Andy Pettitte and defeated a Yankees team that had won four of the last seven crowns, never allowing a runner past second base.

"That kid showed that he was going to be a great one down the road, if he hasn't already," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Not since 1981 had another team celebrated a Series championship on the field at Yankee Stadium. When the Los Angeles Dodgers did it then, Yankees owner George Steinbrenner apologized to the city for the dismal performance.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman and former star Reggie Jackson, chins resting on hands, watched from a box with the same incredulous look on their face.

This time, credit the resilient Marlins for their performance. It was as if the sellout crowd of 55,773 couldn't believe what it was seeing - then again, Florida has been an upset special this October in improving to 6-0 lifetime in postseason series.

The Marlins dropped the opener to Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants in the division before winning three in a row. They overcame a 3-1 deficit in the NL championship series, beating Cubs aces Mark Prior and Kerry Wood at Wrigley Field.

In this 100th World Series game at Yankee Stadium, Beckett and the Marlins never gave the Yankees much of a chance. Florida, which joined the majors in 1993, became the fastest two-time winner in the post-expansion era.

Beckett finished 1-1 in this Series. He lost Game 3 despite 7 1-3 impressive innings.

Luis Castillo snapped his 0-for-14 rut with an RBI single that saw Alex Gonzalez make a neat slide home in the fifth and Juan Encarnacion added a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

That was plenty for Beckett, who fielded Jorge Posada's tapper up the first-base line and tagged him for the final out. He struck out nine, featuring a 97 mph fastball, and walked two.

In the past five postseasons, pitchers

working on three or fewer days' rest had been atrocious. In 37 such starts, they were 6-20 with a 5.93 ERA.

But Beckett and the 72-year-old McKeon threw that wisdom to the wind. It was just the kind of free thinking that made McKeon so successful this season - the Marlins were 19-29 shortly after he took over for the fired Jeff Torborg in mid-May, and headed toward a last-place finish before he took them to the title.

"Nobody gave us a chance and here they are world champions," said McKeon, the oldest manager to win a World Series title.

Pettitte was sharp through the first four innings, working around an early double by former Yankees farmhand Mike Lowell.

Pettitte started strongly in the fifth, too, retiring the first two batters before the Marlins struck.

Gonzalez singled - yet another hit from a ninth-place hitter whose bat is headed for the Hall of Fame, based on his 12th-inning homer in Game 4 - and moved to second when Juan Pierre singled.

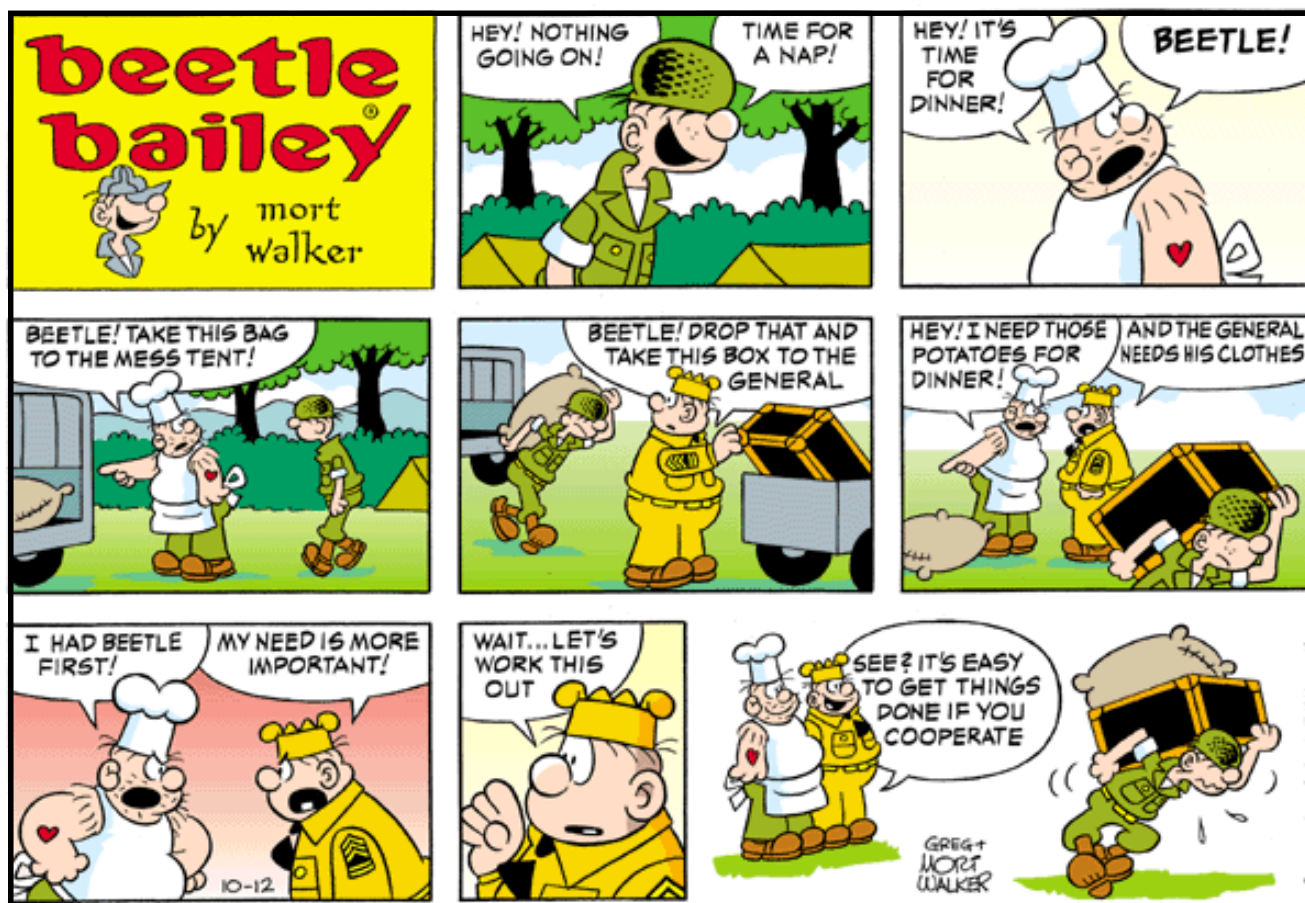
That brought up Castillo, only 3-for-23 in the Series, and he quickly fell behind in the count 0-2. Posada then made a trip to the mound to visit Pettitte and while the catcher and pitcher talked, on-deck hitter Ivan Rodriguez took several steps toward Castillo to shout some sort of encouragement.

Moments later, Castillo poked an opposite-field single to right and third-base coach Ozzie Guillen immediately waved Gonzalez home.

Right fielder Karim Garcia made a strong, one-hop throw to the plate that beat Gonzalez. But Posada, who almost always tries to avoid collisions, caught the ball a step up the first-base line and had to reach back on a swipe tag.

see Sports pg. 8

WEEKLY COMIC



NFL WEEK 8 SCORES

Final Buffalo (4-4-0) 2 3 0 0 5	Final Seattle (5-2-0) 7 10 7 0 24	Final NY Giants (3-4-0) 7 6 3 13 29	Final Tennessee (6-2-0) 10 10 7 3 30
Kansas City (8-0-0) 7 21 0 10 38	Cincinnati (3-4-0) 7 10 3 7 27	Minnesota (6-1-0) 3 7 7 0 17	Jacksonville (1-6-0) 0 10 0 7 17
Final Detroit (1-6-0) 0 0 8 8 16	Final Denver (5-3-0) 3 0 3 0 6	Final OT San Francisco (3-5-0) 6 0 0 7 0 13	Final NY Jets (2-5-0) 10 0 7 0 17
Chicago (2-5-0) 0 10 14 0 24	Baltimore (4-3-0) 0 9 0 17 26	Arizona (2-5-0) 7 3 3 0 3 16	Philadelphia (4-3-0) 7 7 0 10 24
Final Dallas (5-2-0) 0 0 0 0 0	Final St. Louis (5-2-0) 7 10 10 6 33	Final Houston (2-5-0) 0 14 0 7 21	
Tampa Bay (4-3-0) 0 10 6 0 16	Pittsburgh (2-5-0) 7 7 7 0 21	Indianapolis (6-1-0) 3 14 10 3 30	
Final OT Carolina (6-1-0) 3 7 3 7 3 23	Final Cleveland (3-5-0) 0 3 0 0 3		
New Orleans (3-5-0) 0 17 0 3 0 20	New England (6-2-0) 3 0 3 3 9		

Courtesy of.



HEADLINERS

Fla. Boy Gets \$34 Traffic Ticket on Bike

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — The parents of an 8-year-old boy ticketed by police for violating traffic rules on his bike say they won't pay the \$34 citation for a child who is just half the legal driving age.

Second-grader Scott Montgomery has 30 days to pay Manatee County for the ticket written by a Bradenton police officer Wednesday.

"I'm going to not pay this ticket, and Scott's definitely not going to pay it," said Danielle McIntosh, the boy's mother. She added the only money her son has is the allowance he has been saving for a battery-operated miniature truck.

"He's an 8-year-old child. He does not understand what the right of way is," She said.

Scott was riding a bicycle in his neighborhood when he jumped a dirt mound with five of his friends, Bradenton Police Lt. Sam Campbell said. He crossed paths with a 2001 Nissan and the car clipped the rear tire of Scott's 5-pound, 16-inch BMX bicycle.

Scott wasn't injured, but was cited by Officer Jeff Beckley for violating the right of way.

"I'm doing OK," said Scott, who was not wearing a helmet during the accident. "I hit a little bit of his car, but then I just got off my bike and ran away."

McIntosh said the two people in the Nissan claimed Scott flew up onto the hood of their car, causing \$1,000 worth of damage. Campbell said that police estimated \$500 and could not confirm whether Scott hit the hood.

"His mother was apparently pretty upset with us," Campbell said. "But in this case, the child caused the accident by pulling out in front of the car. The driver didn't have time to react."

Campbell said officers issue citations to

many children throughout the year for not wearing helmets or for committing traffic violations on their bicycles. Officers draft the tickets in the child's name but usually expect the parents to pay them.

If no one is cited during an accident, insurance companies will demand that vehicle owners pay for their damages even if they are not at fault. It is a liability as well as a safety issue, Campbell said.

Town Passes Diapers for Horses Law

LUCEDALE, Miss. (AP) — If a horse wants to gallop into this town, it's going to have to diaper up, and not horse around.

Unbeknownst to horse lovers, the city of Lucedale approved a new ordinance earlier this month that requires horses to wear diapers when in town.

The ordinance requires all livestock - horses, cattle, sheep, mules and others - to be diapered.

Some horse riders now may boycott the city's annual Christmas parade.

Last year, the parade drew 250 riders. The law will take effect Nov. 7.

It was the number of riders that was part of the problem, said Lucedale Alderwoman Gladys Hobby.

"With that many horses, there wasn't no place, you know?" Hobby said. "There were some pretty horses. They left us with a pretty mess."

At Lucedale Livestock, employee Shannon George wasn't sure what sort of device would do the job. But she knew she couldn't fit a diaper on a horse.

"I wouldn't even try," George said. "Maybe a little monkey, but not no horse or something like that."

Rotary Club President Jim Young said the organization, which backed the ordinance, will meet with horse owners and may present aldermen with a compromise.

As it stands, the city has said it will not enforce the ordinance during the parade, Young said.

Billy Rogers, a member of the George County Team Penning Association and parade regular, said he's not even sure if a saddle horse can be "bagged."

"To be honest with you, if I tried to put a bag on her I'd probably get my brains kicked out," he said. "We want to make sure we can ride our horses. And we don't want to bag 'em."

Fla. Man Attacks Dogs With Samurai Sword

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — A 70-year-old man attacked his son's two pit bulls with a samurai sword because one of the dogs made a mess in the house, police said.

Vernon Garner chased the 3-year-old dog and her puppy into his son's bedroom on Wednesday. When the dogs hid under the bed, Garner grabbed the sword and jabbed it under the bed, cutting both dogs, Detective Carlos Negrón said.

"Apparently the suspect got very upset because the puppy went to the bathroom in the house," Negrón said.

The dogs lay bleeding in the room until his 21-year-old son, Michael Garner, got home several hours later, police said.

The younger Garner rushed both dogs to an animal hospital. They were expected to survive, but detectives still charged Vernon Garner with two felony counts of animal cruelty.

"He said that the female, the mother, tried to bite him and bite his pants," Negrón said, "but there was nothing on the pants."

Garner was released Friday on \$5,000 bond, jail officials said Saturday.

A woman who answered the phone at the Garner house Friday evening declined comment. The dogs were turned over to the city's animal control division, which was trying to locate a new home for the dogs.

SPORTS Continued

Gonzalez saw his opening and slid wide, reaching to touch the plate with his left hand as he tumbled past. It was a close play, but there was no argument for the Yankees as umpire Tim Welke called it correctly.

Down 1-0, the Yankees tried to rally in the fifth, putting a runner on second with two outs. Beckett took care of his nemesis with his fastest pitch of the night, a 97 mph fastball that Derek Jeter missed for strike three.

It was another missed chance for the Yankees, who were hitting just .149 (7-for-47) with runners in scoring position in the Series at that point.

Perhaps Jeter was still thinking about that key at-bat when Jeff Conine opened the sixth with a routine grounder to the All-Star shortstop. Jeter bobbled it and bounced his throw past first base for his first error in his last 27 Series games.

Florida took advantage of the error. After a walk and a bunt, Encarnacion lifted a sacrifice fly for a 2-0 lead.

Pettitte started the game by retiring Pierre on a popup - right after a pitch grazed the leadoff man's jersey but was not called.

Beckett began his outing by striking out Jeter on three pitches.

Notes:@ New York is 64-36 in Series games at Yankee Stadium. ... Pettitte fell to 13-8 in postseason games. He remained tied with John Smoltz for the most postseason wins. ... The loss ended Roger Clemens' career. The Yankees pitcher is retiring. ... Castillo has not made an error in his last 82 games at second base.



Tiger Makes Cut, Matching Nelson Record

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods matched the 55-year-old standard set by Byron Nelson on Friday by making the cut in his 113th consecutive PGA Tour event, posting a 5-under 67 at the Funai Classic to easily qualify for the weekend and leave himself four shots behind leader Vijay Singh.

"I'm very proud," Woods said. "It's certainly not easy to do."

Nelson established the record from 1941 to 1948, although it is nearly impossible to compare eras.

Making the cut in Nelson's generation meant making money, and he never finished lower than 17th during his streak. Then again, the fields weren't nearly as deep or strong.

The PGA Tour counts 23 tournaments in Woods' streak that didn't even have a cut. One of the those is the Tour Championship, where Woods will break the record in two weeks.

Still, no one has come close to Woods' consistency in today's game. The second-best cut streak in the last 20 years belonged to Singh, who made 53 in a row from 1995 to 1998. On the current list, Ernie Els is second with 26.

Woods paid tribute to Nelson, calling his

record "phenomenal."

"He's been a model of what all golfers should be," Woods said.

Woods' streak began after he withdrew from the 1998 Pebble Beach National Pro-Am by declining to return seven months later to finish the third round of the rain-plagued event.

There have been at least 10 close calls during his streak, but Friday wasn't among them.

If anything, Woods was perturbed at not being closer to the lead.

"You know what I've discovered about this game? It's all about consistency," Woods said, seemingly prepared to wax philosophical about his cut streak.

"And right now," he added, "I consistently can't make a ... putt!"

That wasn't a problem for Singh, who is determined to keep Woods from another record by denying him from a fifth straight PGA Tour money title.

Singh, the hottest player in golf with seven top 10s in his last eight tournaments, overcame his first bogey of the tournament on No. 9 by playing his next seven holes in 7 under par, including an eagle on No. 7 on the Palm course.

Singh finished with a 65 and was at 15-under 129.

"I guess it's all momentum," Singh said. "If you have the momentum going on your side, then it flows and it's going to be good."

Singh had a one-stroke lead over Bob Estes (63), while John Rollins (65) and David Peoples (66) were another stroke back.

"I'm in good position, so if I just keep doing what I'm doing and keep reducing the numbers, I think I have a very good chance," Singh said. "The last week (Tour Championship) will be big because it's only 30 players and it's a big purse."

Honor from pg. 1 comprises Mortuary Affairs at Kandahar Air Field are members of the 54th Quartermaster Company from Ft. Lee, Virginia. They arrived in Afghanistan on March 19th fresh from a rotation in Iraq. They are among the most deployed units in the Armed Services, due to their "war-time only" mission.

"Our job is to take care of the remains of our soldiers and send them home with dignity and honor," said Sgt. Nathaniel Washington, the leader of the crew. "We also provide mortuary services for enemy fatalities."

Private Richard Shatlaw is on his first deployment in the Army. He is a young man with the pensive look of a thinker, and is deeply committed to his profession. He recently graduated from the 7 week Mortuary Affairs Course. There, students go through a rigorous curriculum that includes studies in finger printing, dental examination, anatomy, skeletal dynamics and forensic science.

"I wanted to do something in the field of forensic medicine," said Shatlaw. "My recruiter steered me in this direction and I'm glad I chose this MOS. It's not for everyone, but I knew I had a niche for it. We are also trained in crime scene

investigation, and that keeps things interesting."

While dealing with the deceased, life takes on a whole new meaning. The soldiers of Mortuary Affairs separate from their work by engaging in relaxing activities when off duty.

"I unwind by watching movies, reading, and talking on the phone with my mother," said Specialist Alfred Ashton. "My Mom is a very spiritual lady and she keeps me grounded with her faith, support, and encouragement." Pvt. Shatlaw echoed similar sentiments regarding his faith. He explained that he was a minister as a civilian, and his beliefs in God, along with prayer, sustains him when things get overwhelming.

Soldiers and civilians alike applaud great feats of courage and valor on the battlefield. The image of the infantryman, charging a hill, guns ablaze, against insurmountable odds, is the mark of a hero in our military. But one can only imagine the courage it takes to tend to fellow soldiers after they are cut down in the prime of their lives. For those occasions, the soldiers of Mortuary Affairs exercise a focus and resolve that can not be measured in words.

"The most difficult part of what we do is tending to a young soldier whose

life was really just beginning," said Washington. "That's when I really have to focus on the fact that this is my job, and try to separate the emotional part of it. But, we are human, and it gets difficult at times."

For Sergeant Washington, Specialist Ashton, and Private Shatlaw, they are simply doing their job, as unheralded and unglamorous as it may be. They are members of one of the most respected and time-honored professions in the United States Army. They are rewarded by the knowledge that they play a significant role in honoring our fallen heroes; by sending their remains home with the highest degree of respect, honor, and dignity.

As the war on terror rages on in the caves and mountains throughout Afghanistan, the sobering reality is that more soldiers will die. The cost of riding the world of terrorists is exceedingly high, and not only quantified in dollars, but also in lives. A great nation is built on the blood shed by soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for freedoms sake. For those who are charged with returning these fallen heroes back home, a collective salute is due.

Courtesy of the weatherchannel.com

Weekly Weather Forecast

Mon Oct 27	Sunny	84°/52°	0 %
Tue Oct 28	Sunny	84°/53°	0 %
Wed Oct 29	Sunny	85°/55°	0 %
Thu Oct 30	Sunny	85°/54°	0 %

Fri Oct 31	Sunny	85°/53°	0 %
Sat Nov 01	Sunny	85°/51°	0 %
Sun Nov 02	Partly Cloudy	84°/48°	0 %
Mon Nov 03	Mostly Sunny	83°/48°	0 %

"Weekly Quote"

"It is well that war is so terrible, else we should grow too fond of it."

- **General Robert E. Lee**

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at

Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com

Improvements from pg. 1

has moved from its old location behind the Post Exchange (PX), to a larger and more convenient location past the hangar on Warrior Way, right next to tent city.

Another change that is currently in progress is the relocation of the gym from behind the PX to a more suitable location in a new clam-shell tent on Warrior Way. The new facility is past the hangar, conveniently located in the same area as the MWR tent.

The biggest improvement underway is the construction of a new PX Mini Mall located in the old buildings beside of the volleyball court in front of the PX. Many prayers from KAF soldiers will be answered when they can finally get their Desert Combat Uniforms altered or patches sewn on at the new Alterations and Embroidery Shop in the PX Mini Mall. Afterwards, the troops will be able to pick up something for the folks back home at the new and improved Gift Shop. They might even be able to find something exotic and rare at the new Jewelry Shop. For the sports enthusiast and avid weight-lifter, the latest in work-out apparel and accessories will be available at the new Sporting Goods store.

If a soldier doesn't feel like partaking in any one of the new amenities that will be offered here at KAF, they can either relax while their uniforms are get-



The new clam-shell gym will offer more space and will also be able to better control the climate inside.

ting done by sipping on a nice hot cappuccino at the new Coffee Shop or grab a bite to eat at the new Nathan's Hot Dog Shop.

Further improvements, such as modular housing, complete with central air-conditioning and heat is planned for KAF. These aluminum buildings will feature four-man rooms in leau of the ever popular 20-man tents that residents at KAF are so accustomed to. Other comforts in the buildings will include showers, toilets, and refrigerators.

Even though morale at KAF is good and the servicemembers are content with their surroundings, the ASTF knows that life will be better here with the improvements. The men and women that risk their lives doing their job here deserve nothing less than the best that the military can offer.

"They deserve everything that we're doing for them", said Mahoney "Soldiers know how to soldier. They are not complaining, but we're still going to make things better."



Spc. Johnathan I. Stormm, works diligently at the underside of an Apache

Apache from pg.3

"It's rough, you have no choice, you have to do your best to get the job done. You put forth your best effort and that means that one person is not going to do it; it takes the whole team to finish the job properly," Said Spc. Jonathan Stormm from Rochester, NY.

As the daylight wanes away, the maintenance crew of C Company finishes work on an Apache. Safety is always an issue when working on this sophisticated piece of machinery. Keeping track of the tools is one of their biggest safety issues. Foreign object damage, or FOD, is one the biggest issues all maintenance crews try to avoid. The crew inventories their tools before, during, and after each job is completed.

The flight line is also always being cleaned of anything that can damage an engine. Spc Clinton Elderkin from Johnstown, PA describes FOD walks, as a police call for aircraft parking spots. On the last FOD walk, the crew collected several buckets of waste. Empty soda bottles, wires, ammo shells casings, and anything else that could damage an engine were collected.

As hellfire missiles, 2.75 inch rockets, and 30 mm cannon fire rain down on their targets, the Apache eliminates the threat. The maintenance crew can rest a little easier each night. They know because of their hard work and dedication, these lethal pieces of steel and moving parts fly high over the sky each and every day.